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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No. 411 Rs. 5/-

Mahabharata-42

THE CELESTIAL REUNION

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

Dilip Kadam

IBH

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Mahabharata – 42

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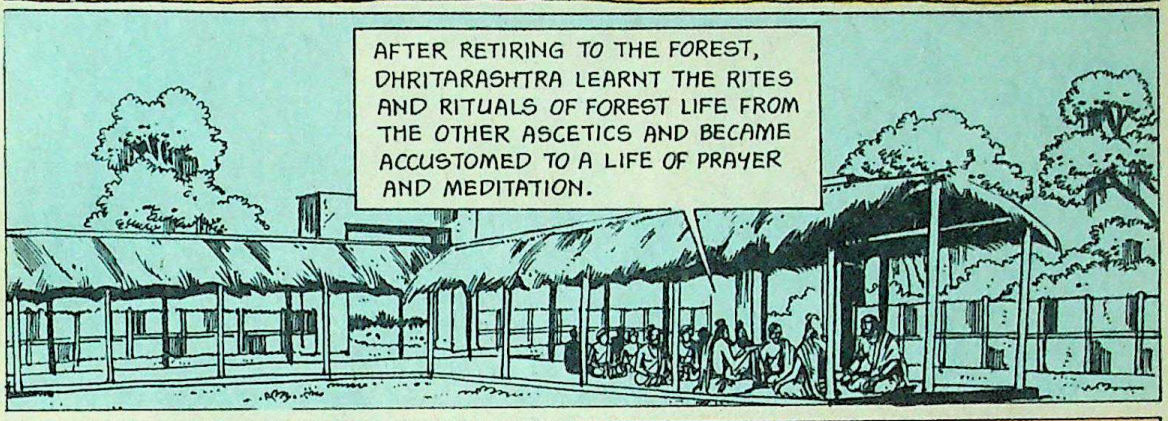

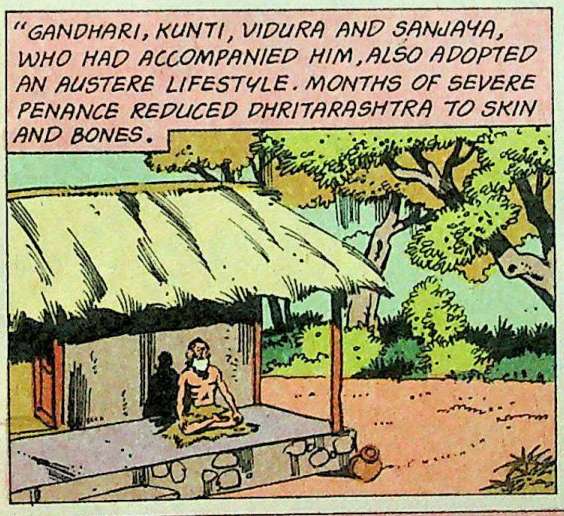

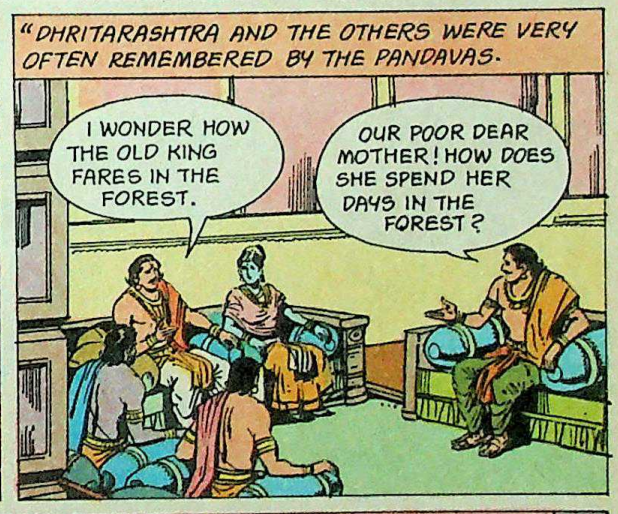

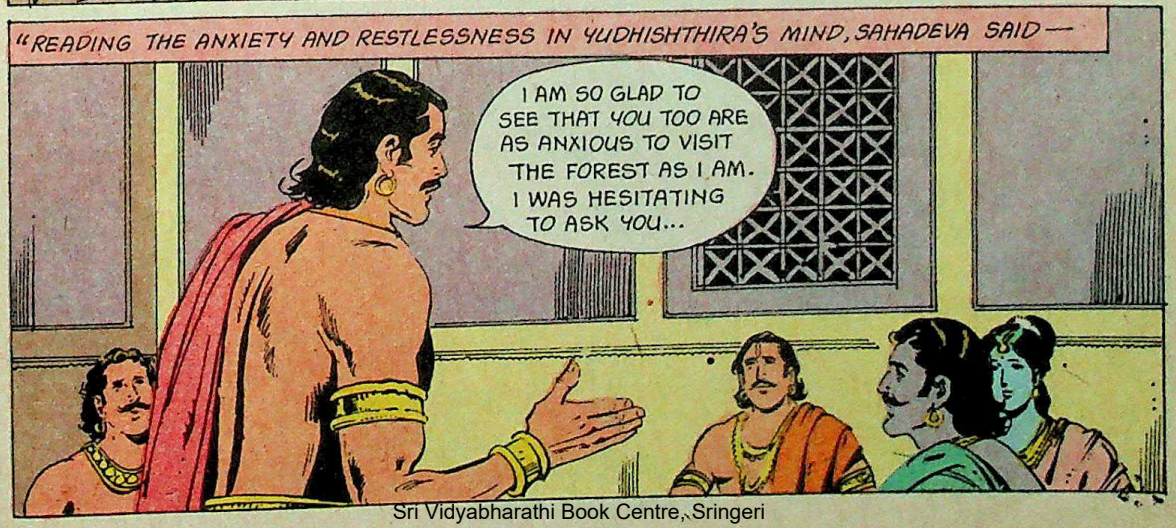

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"DRAUPADI SAID —

I TOO LONG TO SEE OUR DEAR MOTHER KUNTI. IN FACT, ALL THE LADIES OF THE INNER PALACE ARE WAITING FOR THE DAY THEY CAN MEET GANDHARI AND KUNTI.

"YUDHISHTHIRA SENT FOR HIS ARMY CHIEF.

PREPARE YOUR MEN. WE WILL LEAVE FOR THE FOREST TOMORROW. WE WISH TO VISIT KING DHRITARASHTRA. LET AN ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE THAT ALL CITIZENS OF HASTINAPURA ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.

"AT DAWN, A LONG CARAVAN OF CHARIOTS AND HORSES, ELEPHANTS AND CAMELS WAS SEEN WINDING ITS WAY OUT OF HASTINAPURA. BEHIND IT WERE MULES LADEN WITH GOODS.

"YUYUTSU AND THE ROYAL PRIEST DHAUMYA WERE LEFT IN CHARGE OF THE KINGDOM.

"LEAVING THEIR HORSES AND CHARIOTS AT A DISTANCE, THE PANDAVAS WALKED UP TO DHRITARASHTRA'S HERMITAGE.

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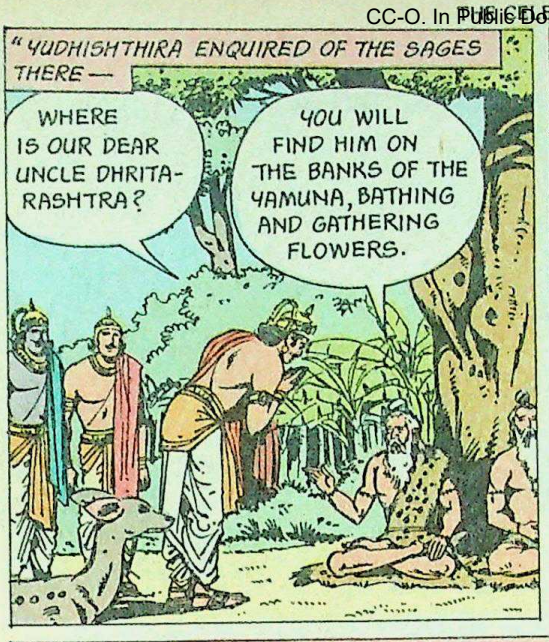

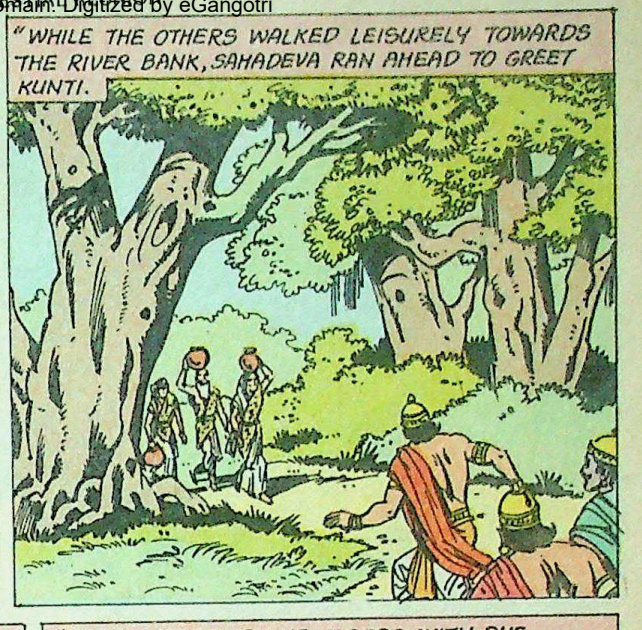

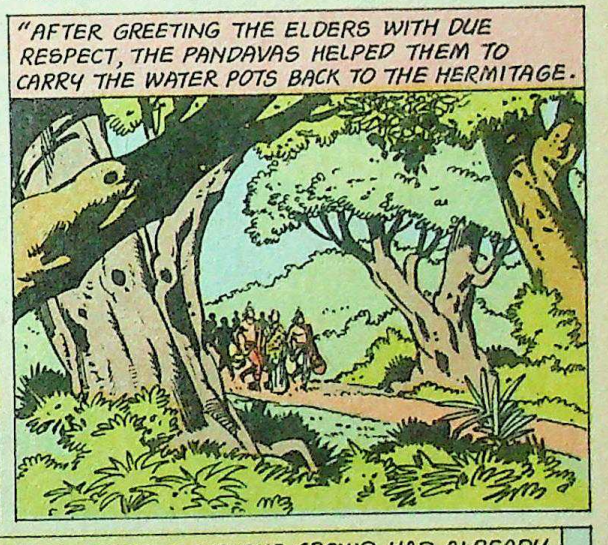

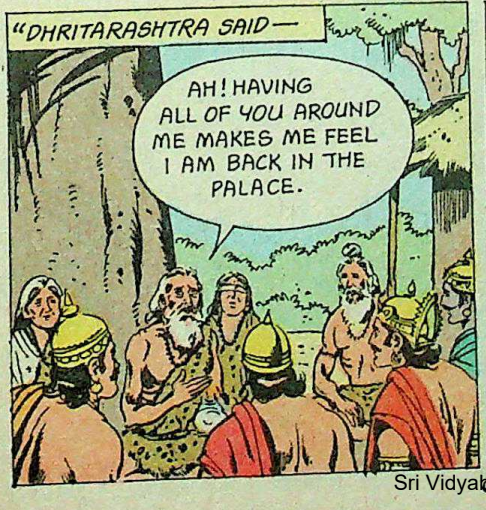

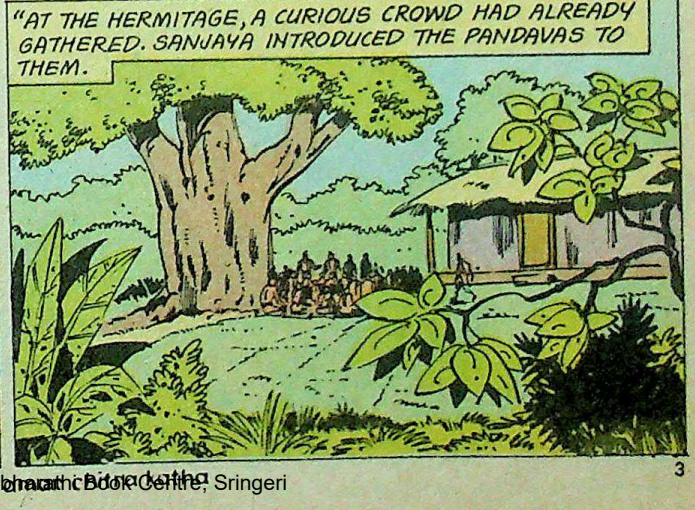

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BUT I DON'T SEE THE VENERABLE VIDURA WITH YOU. WHERE IS HE?

HE IS DOING SEVERE PENANCE. HE IS REDUCED TO SKIN AND BONES.

"JUST THEN THEY SAW VIDURA COMING TOWARDS THE ASHRAM.

WHY THERE HE IS! BUT HE IS TURNING AWAY. I MUST SPEAK TO HIM.

"YUDHISHTHIRA RAN AFTER VIDURA.

STOP! STOP! I AM YOUR YUDHISHTHIRA! I HAVE COME TO MEET YOU.

"VIDURA PAUSED IN THE THICK OF THE FOREST, AND STOOD AGAINST A TREE, STARING INTENTLY AT YUDHISHTHIRA.

"IN A MOMENT YUDHISHTHIRA REALISED THAT HE WAS STARING AT VIDURA'S LIFELESS BODY.

"BUT WHEN IT CAME TO PERFORMING THE CREMATION OF THE BODY OF VIDURA, THERE WAS A HEAVENLY VOICE—

VIDURA WAS LIVING THE LIFE OF A SANYASI. THEREFORE DO NOT CREMATE HIM.

* SANYASIS ARE BURIED, NOT CREMATED

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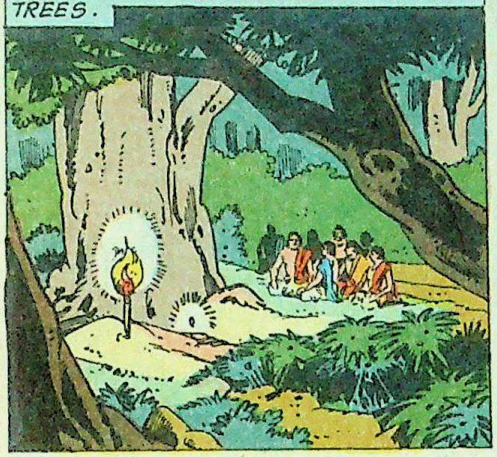
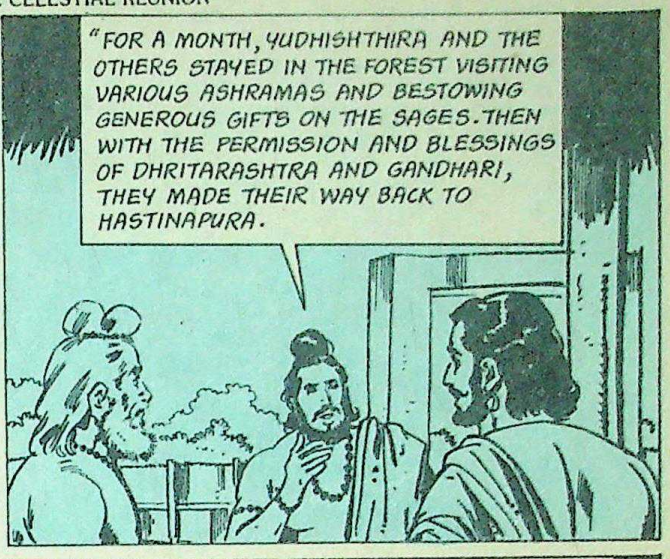
"THE DEATH OF VIDURA TOOK EVERYONE BY SURPRISE. YUDHISHTHIRA AND HIS RETINUE SPENT THE NIGHT UNDER THE TREES.



"FOR A MONTH, YUDHISHTHIRA AND THE OTHERS STAYED IN THE FOREST VISITING VARIOUS ASHRAMAS AND BESTOWING GENEROUS GIFTS ON THE SAGES. THEN WITH THE PERMISSION AND BLESSINGS OF DHRITARASHTRA AND GANDHARI, THEY MADE THEIR WAY BACK TO HASTINAPURA.



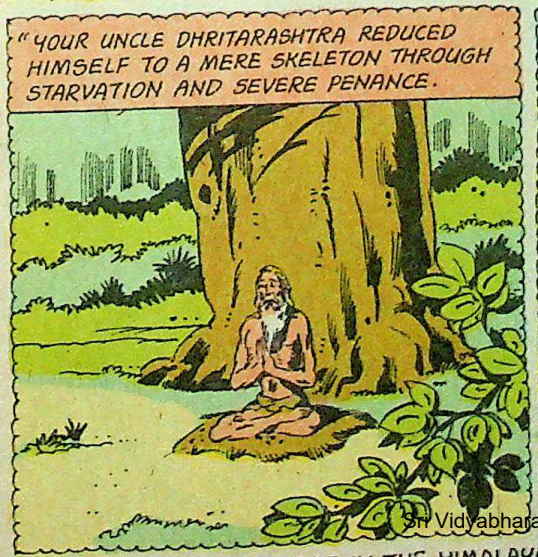
"TWO YEARS AFTER THEIR VISIT TO THE FOREST, SAGE NARADA VISITED YUDHISHTHIRA. ANXIOUSLY YUDHISHTHIRA ASKED HIM —

DID YOU SEE THE VENERABLE DHRITARASHTRA? I HAVE HEARD THAT HE IS OBSERVING SEVERE PENANCE.

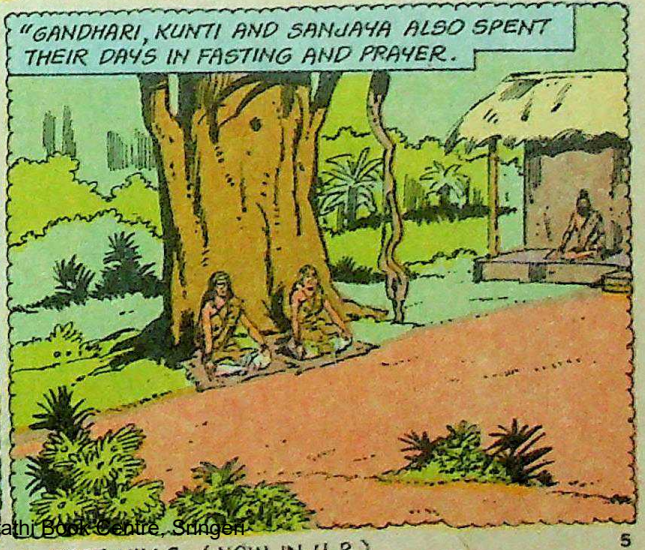
LISTEN CALMLY. I WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE NEWS.

AFTER YOU RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA, DHRITARASHTRA, GANDHARI, KUNTI AND SANJAYA ALL LEFT FOR HARI-DWAR*.

"YOUR UNCLE DHRITARASHTRA REDUCED HIMSELF TO A MERE SKELETON THROUGH STARVATION AND SEVERE PENANCE.



"GANDHARI, KUNTI AND SANJAYA ALSO SPENT THEIR DAYS IN FASTING AND PRAYER.



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* A PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE IN THE HIMALAYAN FOOT HILLS, (NOW IN U.P.)

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"ONE DAY WHEN DHRITARASHTRA WAS RETURNING TO HIS ASHRAMA AFTER HIS BATH, A STORM BROKE, AND WITH IT A FOREST FIRE. SOON, THE WHOLE FOREST WAS AFLAME.

"SO WEAK AND HELPLESS HAD THEY BECOME THAT DHRITARASHTRA, KUNTI AND GANDHARI COULD NOT RUN AWAY.

TAKE TO YOUR HEELS, SANJAYA. WE WILL MEET OUR ENDS IN THIS FIRE.

"PERSUADING SANJAYA TO ESCAPE, THE THREE OF THEM SAT DOWN.

SO WHILE THE THREE OF THEM WERE CONSUMED BY THE FOREST FIRE, SANJAYA WENT TO THE HIGHER HIMALAYAS.

"THE NEWS CAME AS A REAL SHOCK TO YUDHISHTHIRA AND HIS BROTHERS. THEY WERE REDUCED TO TEARS AND TRIED TO COMFORT ONE ANOTHER.

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"YUDHISHTHIRA RETURNED TO HIS ROYAL DUTIES, BUT HIS HEART WAS NOT AT REST, FILLED AS IT WAS WITH SORROW. THE YEARS ROLLED BY UNEVENTFULLY. THIRTY-SIX YEARS AFTER THE GREAT WAR, ILL OMENS STARTED TO APPEAR.

"STORMS LASHED THE COUNTRYSIDE, METEORS STREAKED THROUGH THE SKY, THE SUN AND THE MOON TOO APPEARED TO BE SURROUNDED BY STRANGE RINGS.

"BUT WHEN THE NEWS OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE VRISHNI CLAN REACHED THE PANDAVAS, THEIR GRIEF KNEW NO BOUNDS.

BUT HOW DID THAT HAPPEN? HOW COULD THE ENTIRE CLAN OF THE VRISHNIS BE SUDDENLY DESTROYED? WAS IT A RESULT OF SOME CURSE?

YES, IT HAPPENED MANY YEARS AGO WHEN SAGE VISHWAMITRA, KANVA AND NARADA HAD GONE TO DWARAKA FOR A VISIT.

"SOME MISCHIEVOUS YADAVA BOYS DRESSED UP SAMBA* AS A WOMAN AND TOOK HIM TO THE SAGES.

THIS IS BABHRU'S WIFE, AND SHE IS HOPING FOR A SON. YOU RISHIS ARE WISE MEN. TELL US WHETHER SHE WILL HAVE A BOY OR A GIRL.

WHAT DO THESE YOUNGSTERS THINK! HOW DARE THEY FOOL US THUS?

* A SON OF KRISHNA

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"WITH RED-SHOT EYES, THE SAGES DECLARED —

YOU CRUEL, WICKED BOYS! THIS SON OF KRISHNA WILL GIVE BIRTH TO AN IRON PESTLE * WHICH WILL CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL THE VRISHNI AND ANDHAKA RACES. ONLY BALARAMA AND KRISHNA WILL BE SPARED. BALARAMA WILL CONSIGN HIMSELF TO THE SEA, AND KRISHNA WILL BE KILLED BY A HUNTER WHILE HE IS LYING DOWN.

"SURELY ENOUGH THE NEXT MORNING, SAMBA GAVE BIRTH TO AN IRON PESTLE. HIS COMPANIONS RUSHED UP TO KING UGRASENA AND GAVE THE PESTLE TO HIM.

"AFRAID OF ITS ALLEGED POWER OF DESTRUCTION, THE KING ORDERED THE IRON PESTLE TO BE CRUSHED INTO POWDER, AND TO BE CAST INTO THE SEA. WITH A VIEW TO PREVENT DRUNKEN BRAWLS A PUBLIC PROCLAMATION WAS MADE THAT LIQUOR SHOULD NOT THEREAFTER BE PREPARED OR CONSUMED IN THE KINGDOM.

"IN COURSE OF TIME, THE DENIZENS OF DWARAKA FORGOT ABOUT THIS INCIDENT. BUT WHEN THIRTY-SIX YEARS AFTER THE GREAT WAR, ILL OMENS BEGAN TO APPEAR IN DWARAKA TOO, KRISHNA REALISED THE SIGNIFICANCE. GATHERING HIS PEOPLE TOGETHER, HE SAID —

I PERCEIVE ILL OMENS IDENTICAL TO THOSE WE PERCEIVED BEFORE THE GREAT WAR.

* TOOL USED FOR POUNDING IN A MORTAR.

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"THEN HE PONDERED FOR A WHILE.

WHY! IT IS THIRTY-SIX YEARS SINCE THAT GREAT BATTLE. IT IS NOW TIME FOR GANDHARI'S CURSE TO TAKE EFFECT.

I FEEL IT IS BEST FOR ALL OF US TO GO ON A PILGRIMAGE. LET ALL OF US GATHER TOGETHER AT PRABHASA*.

"THE HEADS OF THE FAMILIES OF VRISHNIS AND ANDHAKAS WERE WILLING TO ABIDE BY HIS DECISION. HECTIC PREPARATIONS WERE SOON UNDER WAY.

"MOUNTED ON HORSES, ELEPHANTS AND CHARIOTS, THE ARMY TOO PREPARED TO LEAVE THE TOWN.

"ON REACHING PRABHASA, THEY SET UP CAMP AND SETTLED DOWN. THEN BEGAN THE FEASTING AND DRINKING IN WHICH KRISHNA, BALARAMA, SATYAKI AND KRITAVARMA ALSO JOINED.

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* A PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE NEAR DWARAKA

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"SATYAKI, QUITE DRUNK, TOOK IT TO HIS HEAD TO INSULT KRITAVARMA.

I HAVE YET TO SEE ANOTHER KSHATRIYA WHO WOULD KILL HIS HAPLESS ENEMIES WHILE THEY ARE ASLEEP. WHAT YOU DID WAS UNFORGIVABLE.

"WILD WITH FURY, KRITAVARMA RETORTED—

DIDN'T YOU KILL BHOORISHRAVA AFTER HE HAD LAID DOWN HIS WEAPONS? DO YOU THINK YOU WERE VERY BRAVE THEN?

"THE OTHERS BEGAN TAKING SIDES AND A DRUNKEN BRAWL WAS SOON ON.

"SATYAKI SPRANG UP WITH A LIVID FACE.

TODAY I SWEAR I WILL AVENGE THE DEATH OF DHRISHTADYUMNA AND THE OTHERS. I WILL KILL THIS WICKED KRITAVARMA WHO SLAYED THEM WITH THE HELP OF ASHWATTHAMA.

"SWIFTLY SATYAKI TOOK THE SWORD FROM KRISHNA AND IN AN INSTANT, CUT OFF KRITAVARMA'S HEAD.

"THEN, CRAZY WITH ANGER AND DRINK, HE BEGAN ATTACKING EVERYONE AROUND.

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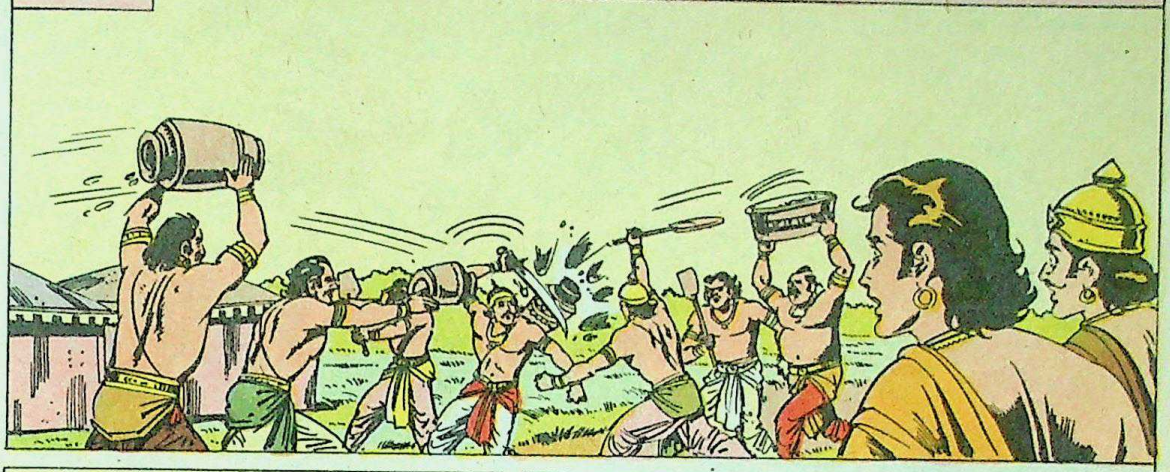
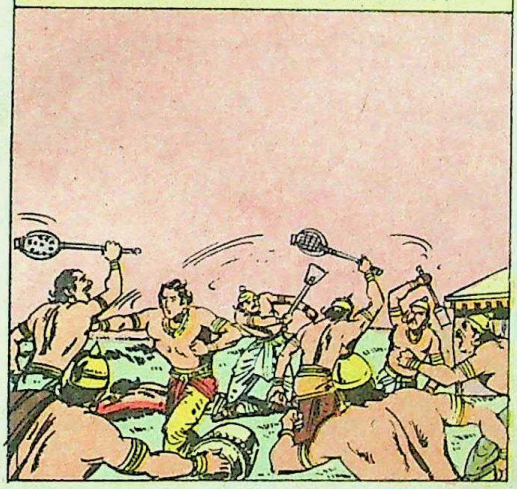
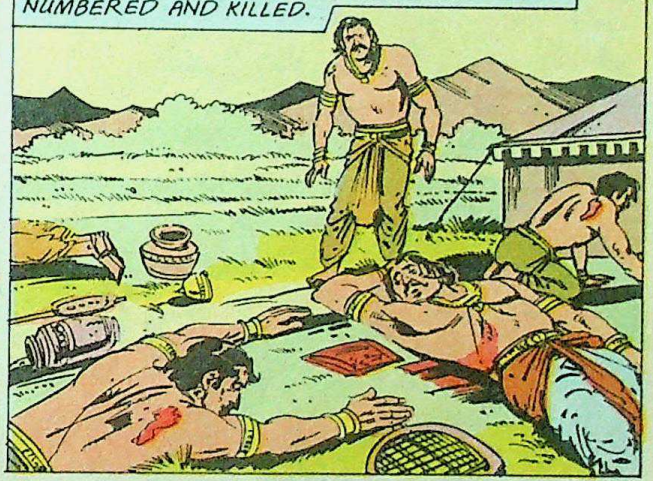
"KRISHNA HASTENED TO CONTROL HIM, BUT JUST THEN THE ANDHAKAS SURROUNDED SATYAKI. IN THEIR DRUNKEN STATE, THEY ATTACKED HIM WITH THE POTS AND PANS THAT WERE LYING AROUND.



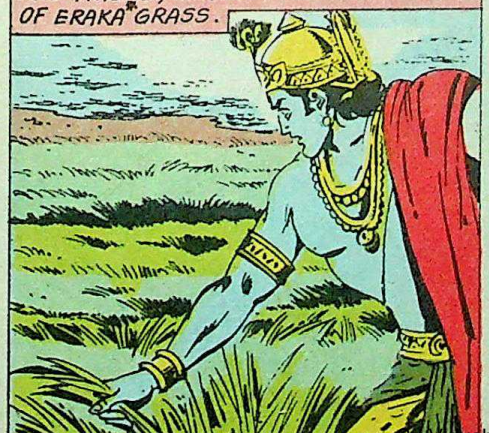
"TO PROTECT SATYAKI, KRISHNA'S SON PRADYUMNA JUMPED INTO THE FRAY.



"THOUGH THEY WERE BOTH STRONG AND VALOROUS, SATYAKI AND PRADYUMNA WERE SOON OUT-NUMBERED AND KILLED.



"ENRAGED BY THE KILLING OF HIS SON AND FRIEND, KRISHNA PLUCKED A CLUMP OF ERAKA* GRASS.



"NO SOONER HAD THE GRASS TOUCHED HIS HAND, THAN IT TURNED INTO A FORMIDABLE IRON PESTLE.

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* A TYPE OF GRASS BELONGING TO THE RUSH FAMILY

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"HOLDING THE IRON WEAPON ALOFT, KRISHNA ATTACKED ALL THOSE WHO CONFRONTED HIM.

"THEREAFTER, WHOSOEVER PULLED UP A TUFT OF THAT GRASS, FOUND HIMSELF ARMED WITH A TERRIBLE WEAPON.

"DRIVEN BY DESTINY, THE VRISHNI CLAN ATTACKED ONE ANOTHER.

"WHILE THE FIGHT REACHED ITS CLIMAX, KRISHNA STOOD BY, WATCHING SILENTLY AS FATHER KILLED SON, AND BROTHER ATTACKED BROTHER WITH IRON RODS.

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"SOON, HOWEVER, KRISHNA'S SONS SAMBA, CHARUDESHNA AND HIS GRAND-SON ANIRUDDHA WERE ALSO KILLED. ONLY DARUKA, KRISHNA'S CHARIOTEER, AND BABHRU, THE MINISTER OF THE YADAVAS, REMAINED ALIVE.

"DARUKA SAID —

ALL ARE DEAD NOW, O LORD, BUT BALARAMA IS NOT TO BE SEEN. COME, LET US GO AND LOOK FOR HIM.

"THEY SOON FOUND HIM NEAR THE SEA SHORE.

"KRISHNA SAID —

DARUKA, GO AT ONCE TO HASTINAPURA AND TELL ARJUNA ABOUT THIS TERRIBLE CARNAGE. ASK HIM TO RUSH TO DWARAKA.

"DARUKA AT ONCE ASCENDED HIS CHARIOT AND LEFT. TURNING TO BABHRU, KRISHNA SAID —

GO TO DWARAKA TO PROTECT OUR WOMENFOLK.

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"BEFORE HE COULD EVEN STIR, BABHRU WAS FELLED BY AN IRON ROD WHICH HAD GOT STUCK TO A HUNTER'S ARROW.

"KRISHNA SAID TO BALARAMA —

PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR ME WHILE I LEAVE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SAFE AND CAPABLE HANDS.

"KRISHNA RETURNED TO DWARAKA AND TO HIS FATHER VASUDEVA.

I HAVE CALLED FOR ARJUNA. PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE WOMEN OF OUR CLAN TILL HE ARRIVES. I MUST GO BACK TO BALA-RAMA. HE IS WAITING FOR ME AS WE BOTH INTEND TO DO TAPASYA* NOW. I CANNOT BEAR TO LIVE HERE ANY MORE.

"AS KRISHNA WAS ABOUT TO RUSH BACK, HE HEARD A LOUD WAILING AND CRYING.

"HE FOUND THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN HUDDLED TOGETHER, WEEPING HELPLESSLY. CONSOLING THEM, HE SAID —

CALM YOURSELF. ARJUNA WILL SOON BE HERE. HE WILL PROTECT YOU.

* MEDITATION AND AUSTERITIES

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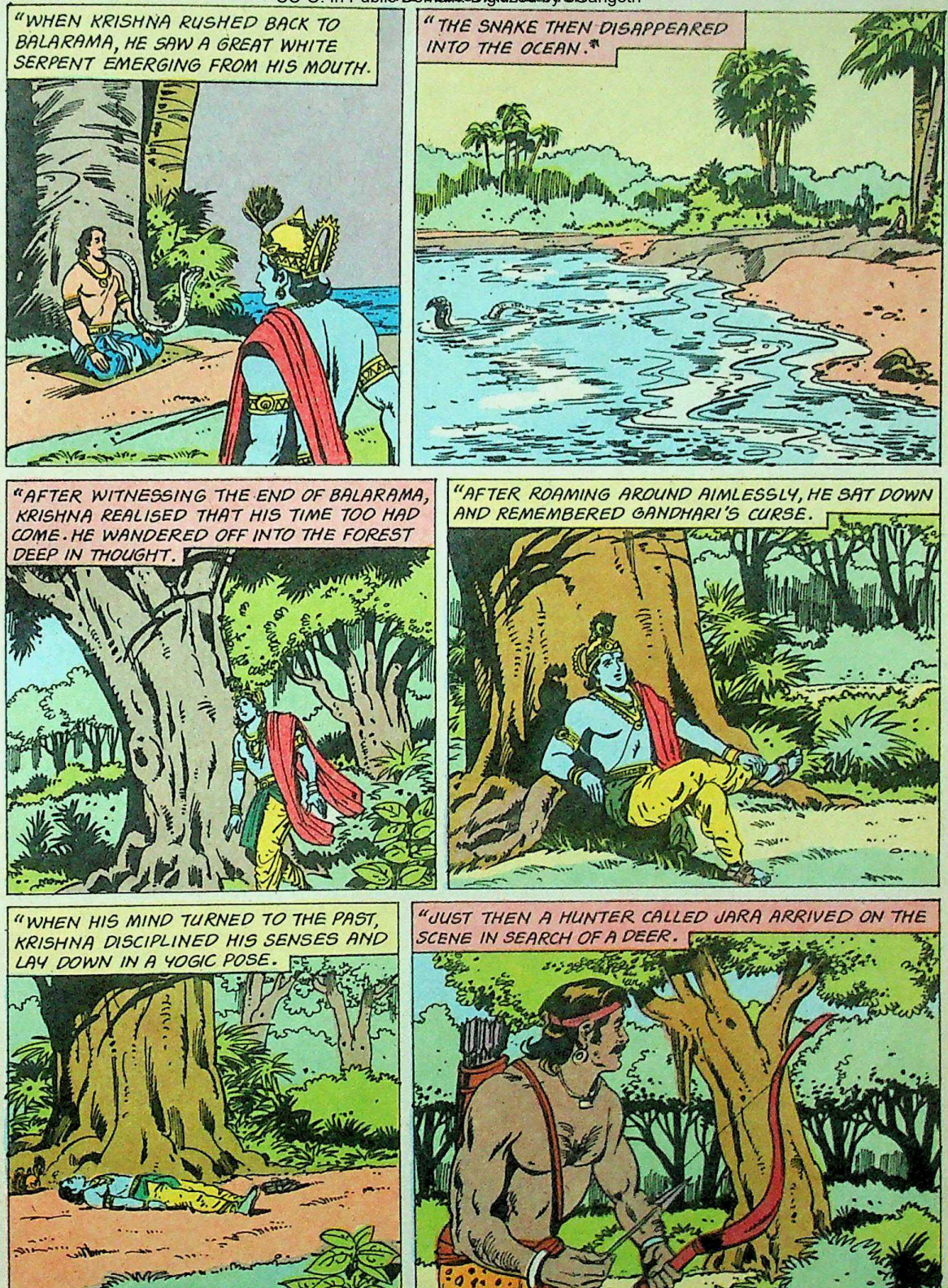

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* AS KRISHNA WAS THE INCARNATION OF VISHNU, BALARAMA WAS BELIEVED TO BE THE INCARNATION OF SHESHA, THE SERPENT ON WHICH VISHNU RECLINES

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"CAMOUFLAGED BY THE FOLIAGE, HE MISTOOK THE SUPINE KRISHNA FOR A DEER, AND SHOT AN ARROW IN THAT DIRECTION.

"THE ARROW PIERCED THROUGH THE SOLE OF KRISHNA'S FOOT.

"WHEN JARA THE HUNTER CAME NEAR, HE REALISED HIS MISTAKE AND BEGGED FOR FORGIVENESS. AFTER CONSOLING THE HUNTER, KRISHNA'S SOUL DEPARTED FROM HIS BODY. THUS, LORD KRISHNA TOO MET HIS END IN THE MANNER PREDICTED BY GANDHARI.

"MEANWHILE DARUKA, WHO HAD REACHED HASTINAPURA, REPORTED TO THE PANDAVAS THE TERRIBLE EVENTS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

"SHOCKED TO HEAR THIS TERRIBLE NEWS, ARJUNA ACCOMPANIED DARUKA BACK TO DWARAKA.

"IN DWARAKA THOUSANDS OF WOMEN, FORLORN AND DESERTED, LAMENTED ALOUD ON SEEING ARJUNA.

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"EVEN THE STOUT-HEARTED ARJUNA COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE THEIR GRIEF. OVERCOME WITH SORROW AND SYMPATHY, HE FELL DOWN IN A SWOON.

"RUKMINI AND THE OTHER QUEENS RAN TO HELP HIM UP. THEY SEATED HIM ON A GOLDEN ASANA AND SAT BESIDE HIM IN SILENT SYMPATHY.

"ON RECOVERING, ARJUNA WENT TO MEET HIS UNCLE VASUDEVA. WHEN ARJUNA GREETED HIM, THE GRIEF-STRICKEN VASUDEVA CLASPED HIM TO HIS BOSOM.

OH ARJUNA! YOUR FAVOURITE PUPILS SATYAKI AND PRADYUMNA ARE NO MORE. IN FACT, THEY HAVE CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENTIRE VRISHNI CLAN.

BUT THEN WE CANNOT BLAME THEM. WHATEVER HAPPENED WAS AN OUTCOME OF THE CURSE OF THE RISHIS.

EVEN KRISHNA, WITH ALL HIS MIGHT AND POWER, WAS A SILENT WITNESS TO THIS MASS DESTRUCTION. PERHAPS HE DID NOT WANT TO OPPOSE THE CURSE OF GANDHARI AND THE RISHIS.

YOU, ARJUNA KNOW WELL THE GREAT PROWESS OF MY SON. YOUR GRANDSON PAREEKSHIT WAS REVIVED AFTER BEING KILLED BY ASHWATTHAMA. YET AFTER WATCHING ALL HIS KITH AND KIN BEING KILLED, HE DID NOTHING.

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KRISHNA HAS GONE AWAY SOMEWHERE AFTER TELLING ME TO DO AS YOU BID. NOW TAKE CHARGE OF THIS PLACE AND PEOPLE. I HAVE NO WISH TO LIVE ANY LONGER.

"WITH A HEAVY HEART, ARJUNA SAID—

NOR CAN I BEAR TO SEE THIS WORLD BEREFT OF MY DEAR KRISHNA. AND I KNOW THAT MY BROTHERS AND DRAUPADI WILL FEEL LIKEWISE. AH! PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME FOR YUDHISHTHIRA TO DEPART.

I WILL TAKE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THE AGED WITH ME TO INDRAPRASTHA. DARUKA, NOW I WANT TO MEET THE MINISTERS OF THE VRISHNIS.

"THE MINISTERS ARRIVED POST-HASTE. ADDRESSING THEM, ARJUNA SAID—

PREPARE YOUR CHARIOTS AND COLLECT ALL YOUR WEALTH TO COME WITH ME TO INDRAPRASTHA. ONCE THERE, KRISHNA'S GRANDSON, VAJRA WILL BE MADE YOUR KING.

SEVEN DAYS FROM NOW, WE WILL LEAVE AT DAWN. SO HURRY UP AND PREPARE TO LEAVE WITH ME.

"ARJUNA SPENT A SAD NIGHT IN KRISHNA'S PALACE.

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"EARLY NEXT MORNING, VASUDEVA BREATHED HIS LAST.

"AFTER PERFORMING THE OBSEQUIES FOR VASUDEVA, ARJUNA WENT TO THE SPOT WHERE THE VRISHNIS HAD MET WITH THEIR DESTRUCTION.

"THERE TOO HE PERFORMED THE FINAL RITES FOR ALL THE DEAD. AFTER SEARCHING FOR KRISHNA AND BALARAMA, ARJUNA PRESUMED THEM TO BE DEAD, AND PERFORMED THE LAST RITES FOR THEM TOO.

"SEVEN DAYS LATER, ARJUNA LEFT DWARAKA. FOLLOWING HIM WERE NUMEROUS CHARIOTS OF THE CITIZENS OF DWARAKA.

"NO SOONER HAD THE SEA OF HUMANITY CROSSED THE LIMITS OF DWARAKA THAN THE CITY BEGAN TO SUBMERGE IN THE OCEAN.

HURRY! HURRY! THE SEA IS COMING CLOSER!

STRANGE ARE THE WAYS OF GOD!

"TRAVERSING THE VARIOUS MOUNTAINS AND RIVERSIDES, ARJUNA LED HIS RETINUE TO THE LAND OF FIVE RIVERS. WHEN THEY ESTABLISHED CAMP THERE, THEY WERE SET UPON BY A GROUP OF ROBBERS. WHEN ARJUNA TRIED TO USE HIS CELESTIAL WEAPONS TO COUNTER THEIR ATTACK, HE STOOD TRANSFIXED.

WHY, I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING. HOW CAN MY MEMORY FAIL ME AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT?

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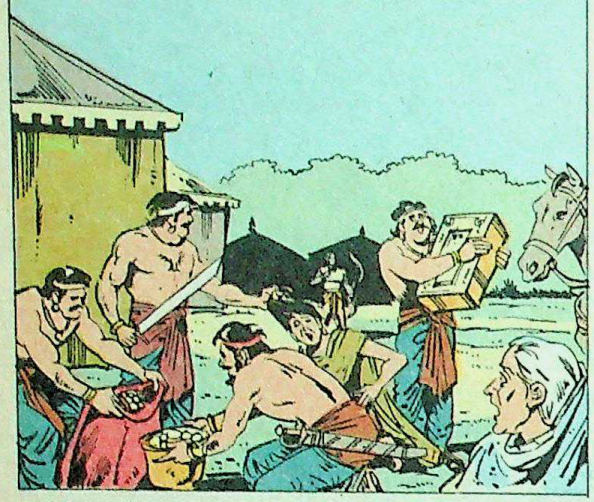
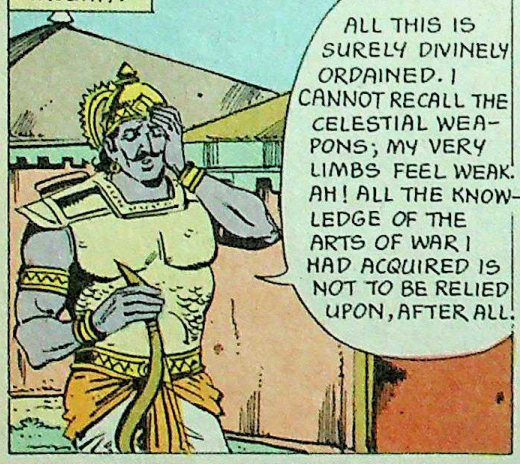
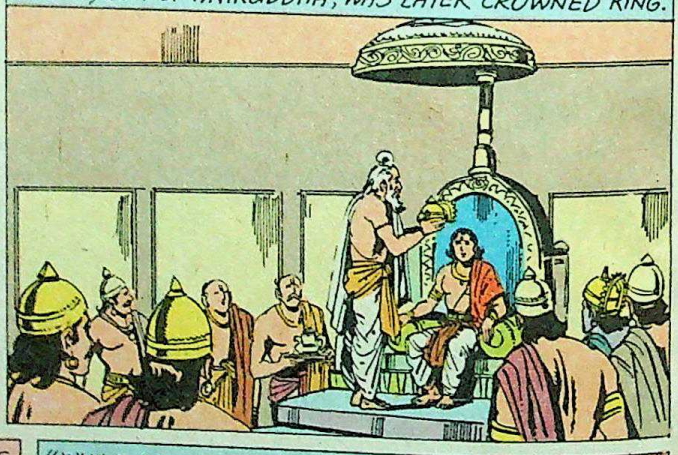


...ARJUNA STOOD BY, HELPLESS. THEN HE TRIED TO ATTACK THE LOOTERS WITH ORDINARY WEAPONS. BUT SOON HIS QUIVERS, WHICH EARLIER HAD BEEN INEXHAUSTIBLE BECAME EMPTY.

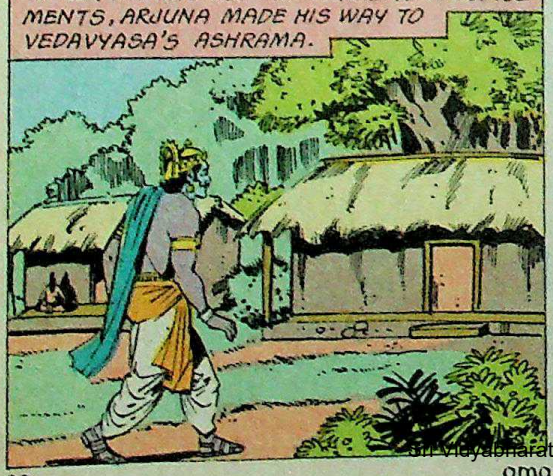
"GRADUALLY, REALISATION DAWNED ON ARJUNA.



"HAPLESSLY, HE GATHERED TOGETHER THE PEOPLE WHO WERE LEFT AND TOOK THEM TO INDRAPRASTHA WHERE VAJRA, SON OF ANIRUDDHA, WAS LATER CROWNED KING.



"AFTER MAKING ALL THE REQUISITE ARRANGEMENTS, ARJUNA MADE HIS WAY TO VEDAVYASA'S ASHRAMA.



"WHILE ARJUNA GREETED HIM WITH DUE RESPECT, VYASA SHREWDLY DETECTED THE RESTLESSNESS IN HIS MIND.

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"ARJUNA RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA AND NARRATED ALL THE EVENTS TO YUDHISHTHIRA.

"YUDHISHTHIRA HEARD HIM AND SAID SOLEMNLY —

WE CAN ONLY SUBMIT TO FATE.

I TOO BELIEVE THAT.

"BHEEMA, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA ALSO AGREED. YUDHISHTHIRA SAID—

SINCE YOU AGREE, LET US ARRANGE THE CORONATION OF PAREEKSHIT. I WILL LEAVE YUYUTSU IN CHARGE OF MATTERS OF STATE.

"DISCARDING HIS SILKS AND JEWELS, YUDHISHTHIRA DONNED CLOTHES OF BARK. HIS BROTHERS AND DRAUPADI DID LIKEWISE. THEN ALL THE FIVE OF THEM, ALONG WITH DRAUPADI, SET OFF ON THE JOURNEY. A DOG FOLLOWED THEM.

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"CROSSING RIVERS AND PLAINS, THEY TRAVELLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY. ARJUNA WAS STILL CARRYING WITH HIM HIS GANDEEVA AND QUIVERS. THE PANDAVAS MET AGNI ON THE WAY, AND HE ASKED ARJUNA TO GIVE AWAY THE GANDEEVA TO VARUNA.

"ARJUNA THREW AWAY HIS WEAPONS IN THE SEA NEARBY. NOW THE PANDAVAS TURNED WEST.

"AFTER VISITING THE SUBMERGED CITY OF DWARAKA, THEY WENT TOWARDS THE HIMALAYAS.

"THEY WERE ALL WALKING UP THE MOUNTAINS AT A FAST PACE. ON THE WAY, THEY SAW MOUNT MERU. AFTER A WHILE, DRAUPADI COULD NOT KEEP STEP WITH THE REST, AND FELL DOWN.

"BHEEMA ASKED YUDHISHTHIRA—

O KING! DRAUPADI HAS DONE NO WRONG IN HER LIFE. WHY DID SHE FALL DOWN NOW?

"YUDHISHTHIRA SAID—

IN HER HEART OF HEARTS, SHE WAS PARTIAL TO ARJUNA. THIS IS THE RESULT OF HER FAVOURITISM.

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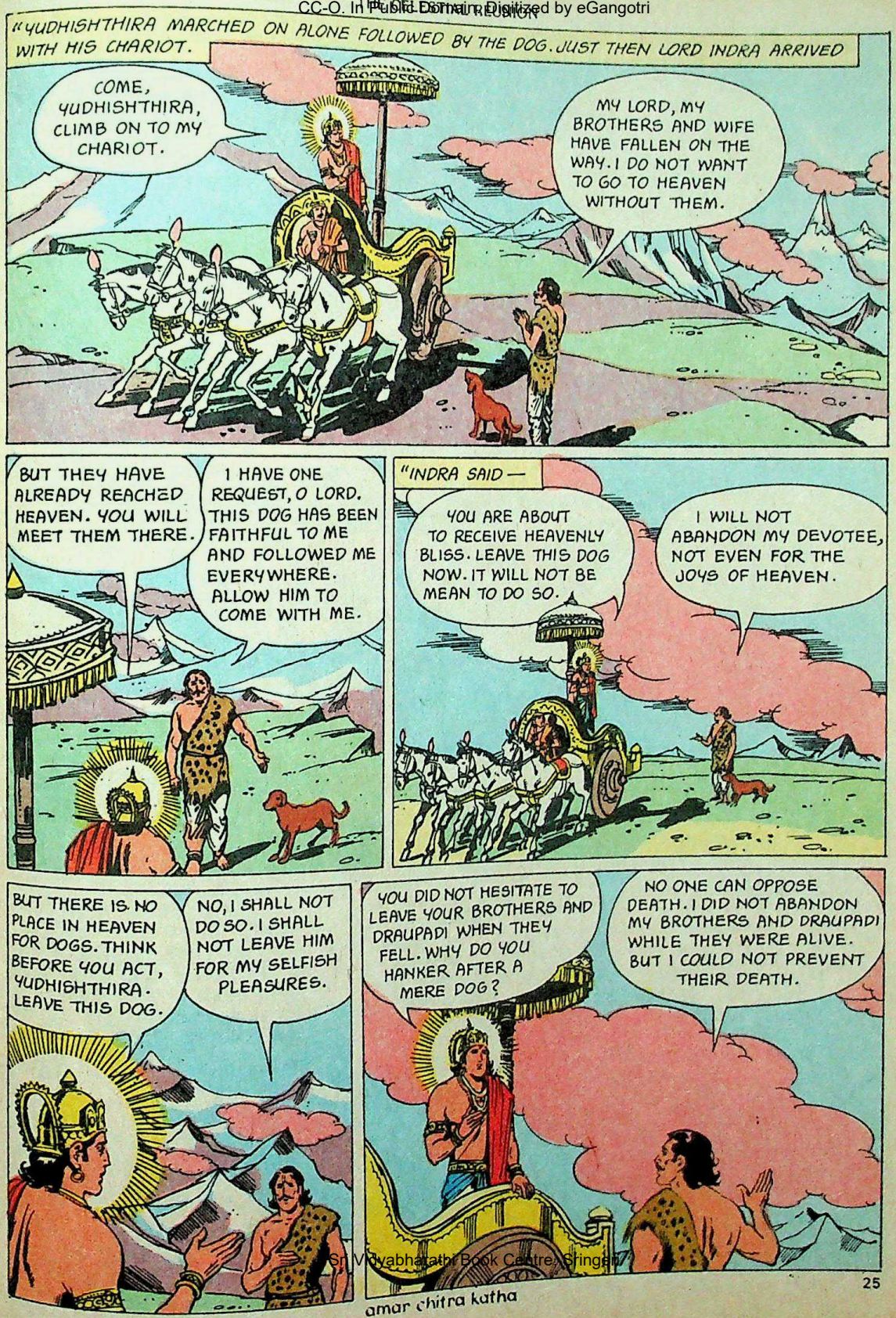

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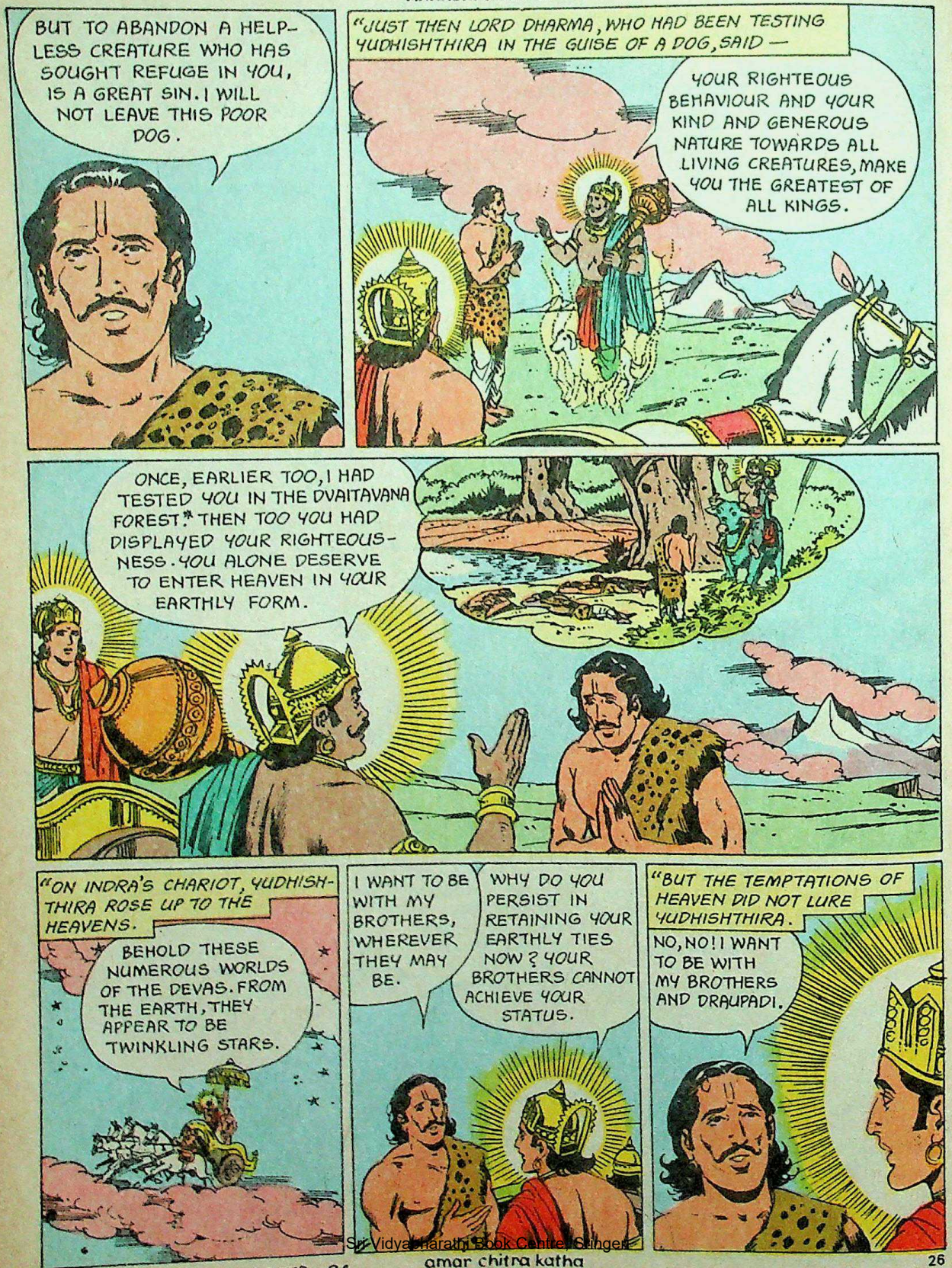

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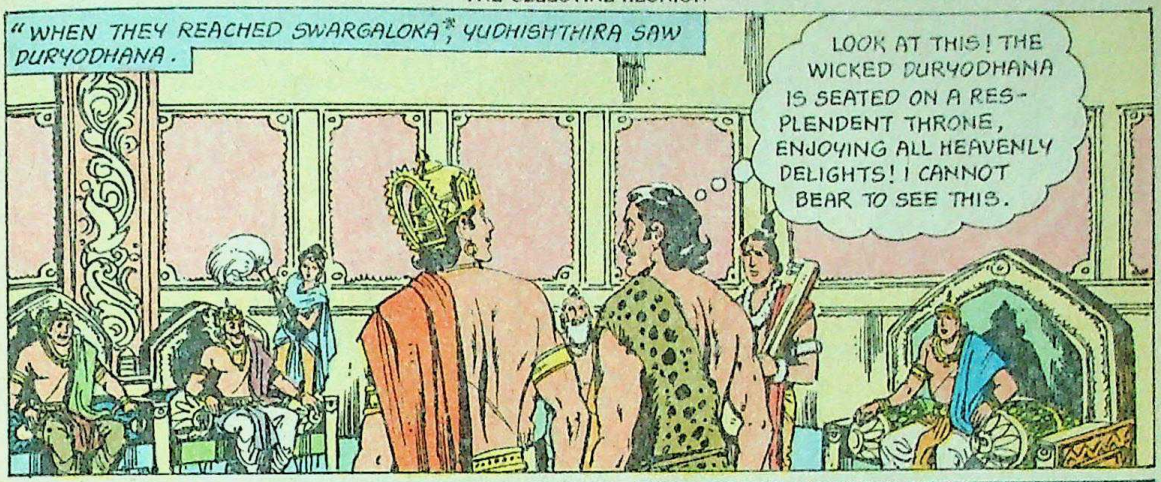

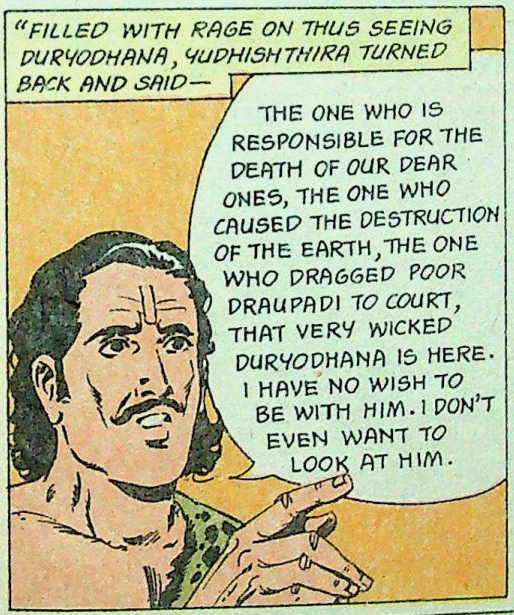

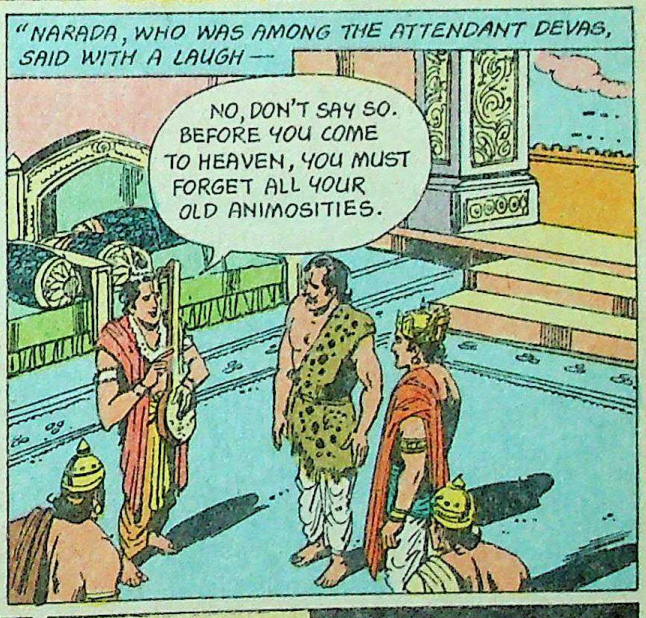

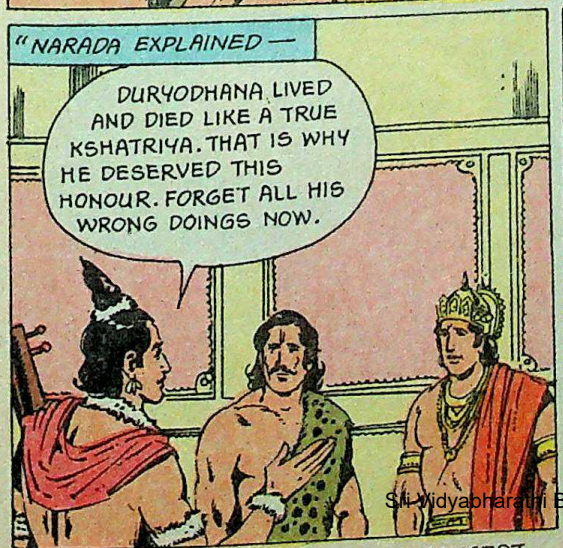

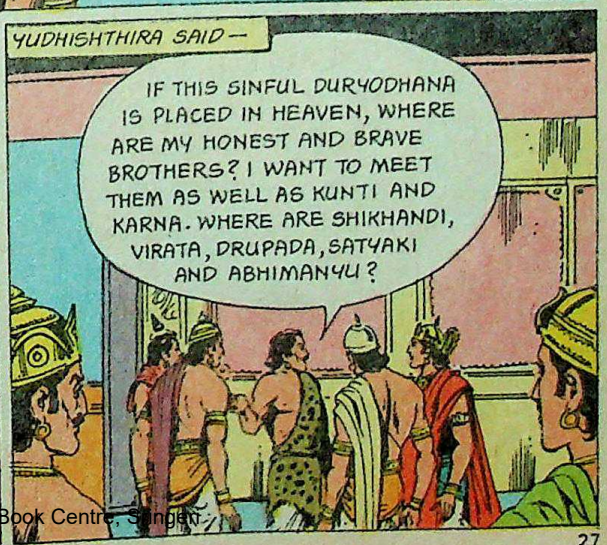

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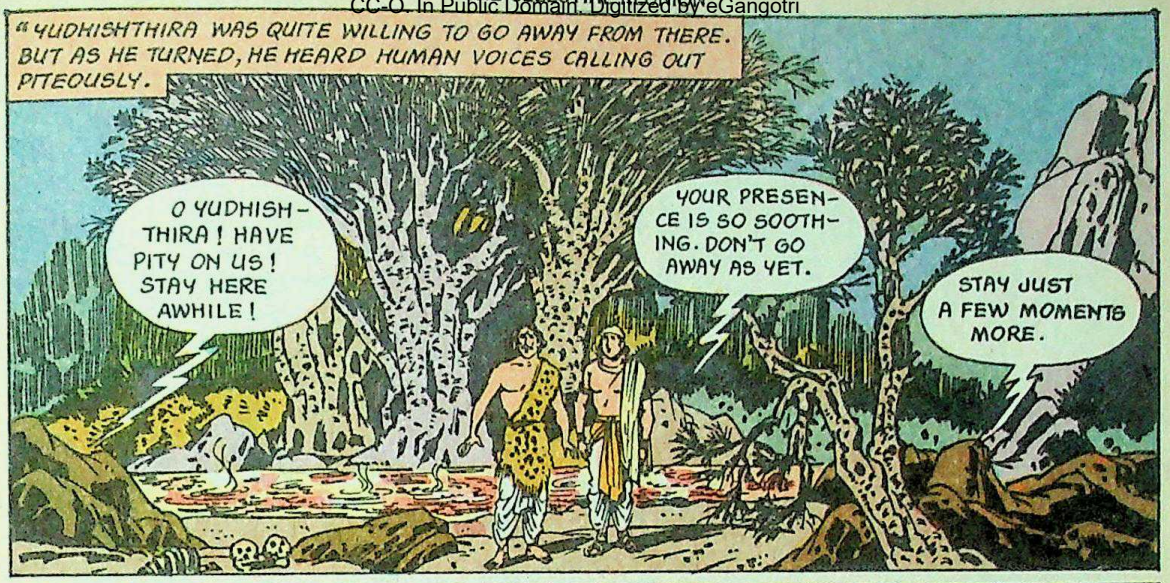

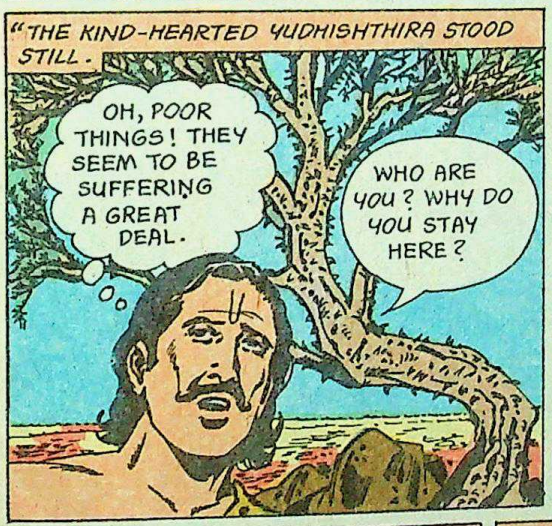

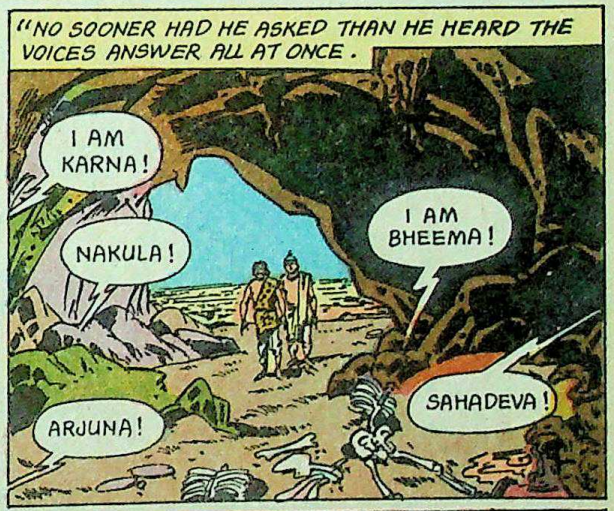

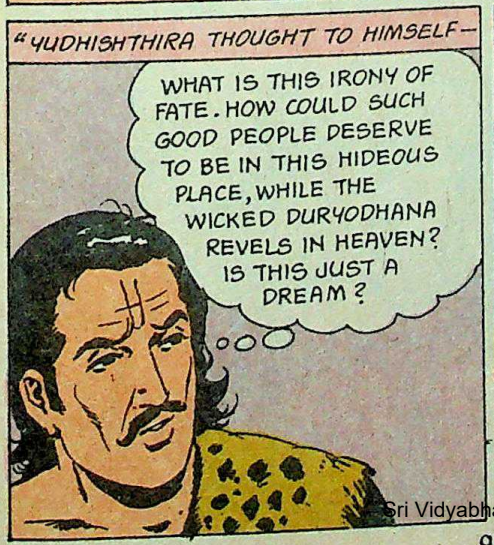

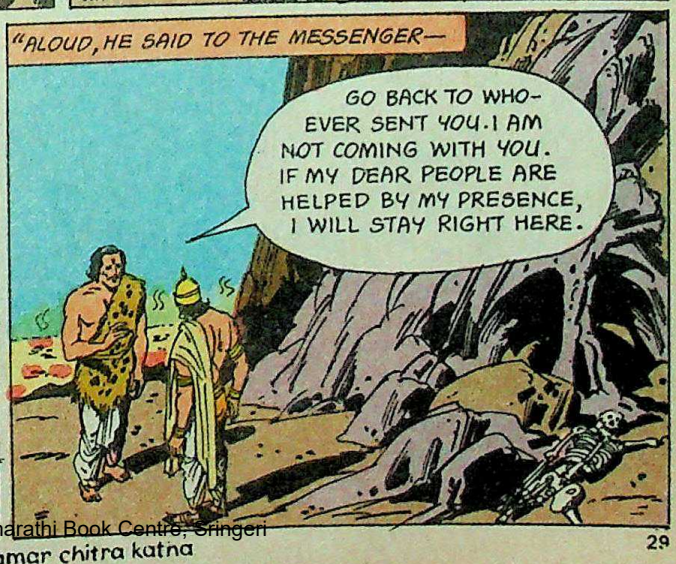

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"DHARMA, THE LORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, APPEARED AGAIN.

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I TESTED YOU, SON. BUT NOTHING COULD SWAY YOU FROM THE PATH OF GOOD CONDUCT.

"YUDHISHTHIRA THEN BATHED IN THE CELESTIAL GANGA AND, ABANDONING HIS MORTAL BODY AT LAST, WENT TO MEET HIS KINSMEN. HE BEHELD THE RESPLENDENT KRISHNA WHOM ARJUNA WAS WORSHIPPING. BEDECKED WITH A GARLAND OF LOTUSES, DRAUPADI WAS RADIATING HER EXQUISITE BEAUTY. INDRA INTRODUCED YUDHISHTHIRA TO THE DEVAS ASSEMBLED THERE.

NOW I HAVE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL ALL THE EVENTS OF THE GREAT WAR BETWEEN THE KAURAVAS AND THE PANDAVAS. WHOEVER LISTENS TO THIS STORY OF THE MAHABHARATA WILL HAVE ALL HIS SINS WASHED AWAY, AND WILL SURELY GO TO THE ABODE OF VISHNU.

"THUS ENDS OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL ITIHASA, THE MAHABHARATA.

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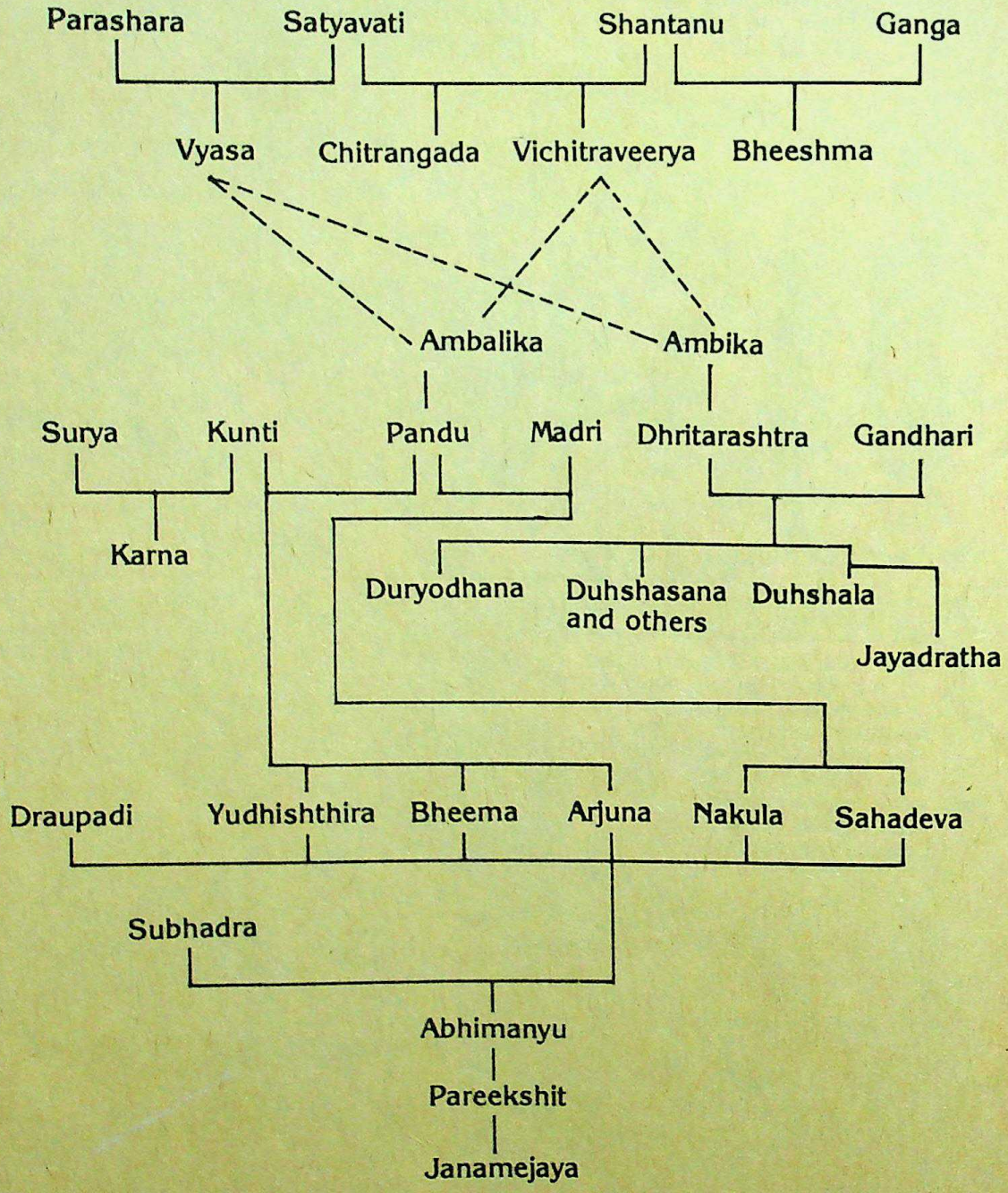
THE FAMILY TREE



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MY NAME IS BOND... GEMS BOND

GEMS BOND THINKS HE'S ON A SIMPLE MISSION THIS TIME. ALL HE HAS TO DO IS TAKE PROF. MATHEMAGIC AND HIS SECRET FORMULA TO HEADQUARTERS.

BUT, UNKNOWN TO BOTH OF THEM, THE DREADED BLACK COBRA GANG IS AROUND THE CORNER – AND WAITING TO STRIKE!

LET'S GET HIM!

IF THE PROF'S FORMULA FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS, THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD COULD BE AT STAKE!

WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED!

WE MUST SAVE THE SECRET FORMULA!

GEMS BOND STEPS ON THE ACCELERATOR OF HIS GEMSMOBILE –

BUT THE VILLAINS ARE CATCHING UP!

GEMS BOND IS IN CONTROL. IT'S TIME FOR HIM TO PRESS THE GEMS BUTTON!

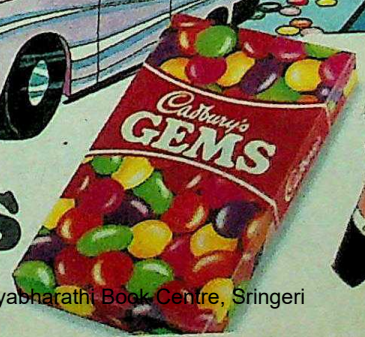
DON'T WORRY PROF!

THE GEMSMOBILE RELEASES A FLOOD OF GEMS, TAKING THE VILLAINS BY SURPRISE!

THE VILLAINS' CAR GOES OUT OF CONTROL... AND GEMS BOND SCORES OVER THE BLACK COBRA GANG AGAIN. THE FORMULA IS SAVED!

CRASH

AND SO GEMS BOND IS READY TO FACE HIS NEXT ADVENTURE. THE EXCITEMENT CONTINUES...



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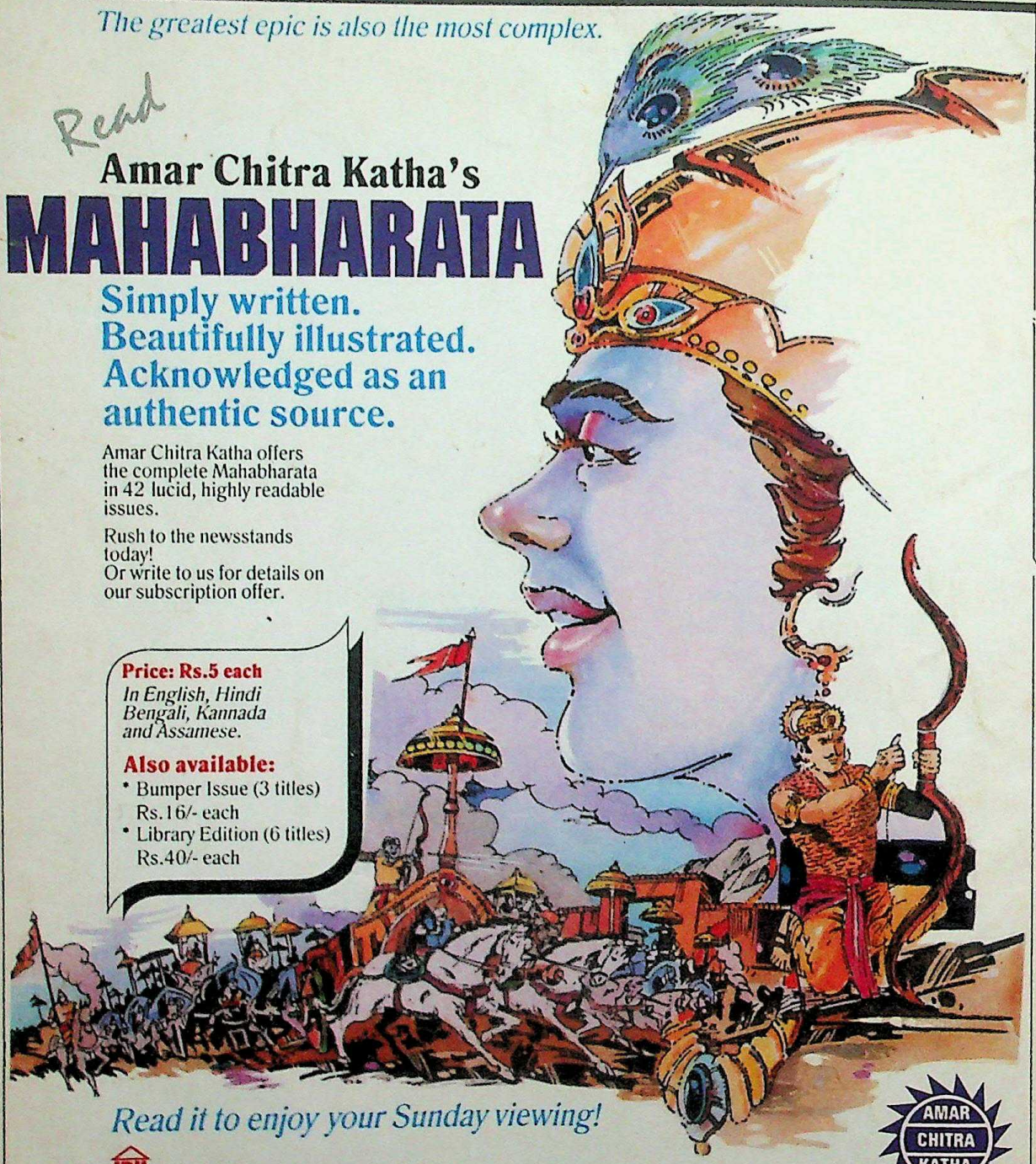

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